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The China Mail

ESTABLISHED 1845

OVERLAND CHINA MAIL
(PUBLISHED WEEKLY)
MAIL DAY.
Contains the Weekly News
of Hongkong and the
Far East.
Price (including Postage) to any
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per annum.

No. 17,112

號二十月三年八十壹百九千壹英

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1918.

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SOLE AGENTS.
A.S. WATSON & Co. Ltd.
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HONGKONG.
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BUSINESS NOTICES.
W. S. BAILEY & CO., LTD.
ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS.
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Steam and Motor Vessels,
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JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD. AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the following revised Passage Fares between Hongkong & Canton will come into force on 25th March, 1918.

	Dayboats.	Nightboats.
Saloon, Single	\$5.00	\$7.00
Return	8.00	12.00
2nd Class, Single	2.00	1.80
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In addition to the above, for the convenience of the travelling public a special 1st Class Return Ticket at Hongkong Currency \$11. and Chinese Currency \$11.80 available one way by Railway and the other by the Company's vessels, will also be issued.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

Sailings:—To Canton daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays excepted) and 10 p.m. From Canton daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays excepted) and 4 p.m.

SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

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Sailings:—To Macao daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays 9 a.m.) and 9 p.m. (Sundays 1 p.m.)

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Further information may be obtained at the Company's Office, Hotel Macao, or from Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son, Booking Agents, Hongkong.

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Established 1883
"MANUFACTURERS OF"

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STRAND 1" to 15" CIRCUMFERENCE	CABLE LAID 5" to 15" CIRCUMFERENCE	4 STRAND 3" to 10" CIRCUMFERENCE
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Price, samples and full particulars will be forwarded on application to

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Hongkong, April 11, 1912.



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THE PREMIER SCOTCH OF
THE FAR EAST
FOR 25 YEARS.

POPULARITY MAINTAINED BY ITS EXCELLENT
QUALITY. NOT BY EXPENSIVE WORLD-WIDE
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A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.
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(NOW RECONSTRUCTED).

ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS, BOILER-MAKERS, BRASS and IRON
FOUNDERS. All work done in this establishment is guaranteed. We have
over thirty years' experience. We own two slipways and can accommodate any craft
of 900 feet long.

Works Office, 45, CONNELL ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG. Telephone No. 440
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Businesses transacted on application.

Hongkong, April 1, 1912.

WONG TING WA, Manager

BUSINESS NOTICES

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PORTLAND CEMENT

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15 Minutes from Landing Stage.

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ORDER BEFORE YOU LEAVE, SO THAT YOU MAY RECEIVE

IT WHILE AWAY.

Price \$12 PER ANNUM, INCLUDING POSTAGE.

AS BE MAILED TO ANY ADDRESS FROM THE

CHINA MAIL OFFICE.

THE WAR.

TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

THE SHIPPING SITUATION.

STATEMENT OF LOSSES BY SIR ERIC GEDDES.

EXAGGERATED ENEMY CLAIMS EXPLODED.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

London, Mar. 20.

Sir Eric Geddes made an important statement in the House of Commons. He said the world's ocean-going tonnage at the beginning of the war, excluding enemy tonnage, amounted to 83,000,000 tons. Until December 31st last year this was reduced by the net figure of 24 millions, equal to 9 per cent. of the world's ocean-going tonnage. The percentage of the net loss of British tonnage alone was 20. The Allied and Neutral percentages were more favourable owing to the inclusion of interned enemy ships by the United States. The reason for the greater loss of British tonnage was mainly due to submarine warfare, specially directed against Great Britain with the object of starving us. The output of new British tonnage in 1915 and 1916 was very low, and before the intense submarine campaign began we were over 1,800,000 tons to the bad. After emphasizing that our navigation risks were greater than those of the Allies, Sir Eric Geddes referred to shipbuilding. He said that when the Shipping Controller was appointed, work had ceased on over fifty large merchantmen in various stages of construction, owing to lack of material and labour. At present 47 large shipyards, containing 209 berths, were wholly engaged on the construction of ocean-going merchantmen. We had also enormously increased the output of repaired tonnage.

Sir Eric Geddes proceeded to deal with the exaggerated enemy claims as regards sinkings. For example, for the year ending January 31st Germany claimed to have sunk 94 million tons of British and Neutral shipping. The true figure was 9,000,000 tons. Our average loss in the last quarter of last year was 261,000 tons monthly, against which 140,000 tons were built monthly. For the same quarter the Allies and Neutrals together were replacing 75 per cent. of their lost tonnage. Sir Eric Geddes declared that it was well within the capacity of Allied yards, and even British yards before very long, with a proper supply of material and manpower, would be able to replace entirely the world's losses, on the present figures. (Cheers.) The stocks of materials in the yards at present were more satisfactory than they had been for years. The need at present was skilled labour, but they were gradually getting skilled men from the Army. Eighteen hundred skilled and unskilled men had returned to the yards up to March 15th, and 745 others were being demobilised. Regarding the low output in January and February the conditions were abnormally bad, but the difficulties were gradually being overcome and he believed that the problem was in a fair way to solution.

Sir Eric Geddes confirmed the appointment of Lord Pirie as Controller-General of Merchant Shipping under the First Lord. Lord Pirie will not be a member of the Board of Admiralty, but will have direct access to the Prime Minister and the War Cabinet on questions affecting shipping.

CONSTANT CHANGES DEPRECATED.

Sir Edward Carson, who followed Sir Eric Geddes, deprecated the constant changes in methods of shipbuilding. "This multiplication of Controllers," he said, "is disquieting." He would like more information of the exact functions of Lord Pirie. The best plan would have been to make Lord Pirie Controller, responsible both for Naval and Mercantile shipbuilding. Lord Pirie was a masterful man who would fight for the Mercantile Marine. Yet the longer the war lasted the more rapidly would the fleet wear out. Sir Edward Carson hoped there would be no friction between Lord Pirie and the Naval constructors.

Mr. A. W. McKie (Labour Member for Dundee) feared that Sir Eric Geddes' statement would cause greater frictions in the yards.

DETAILS OF EVERY NEW SHIP TO BE PUBLISHED.

Capt. Sir Owen Philipps (Unionist Member for Chester) suggested that it would facilitate shipbuilding if the details of every ship launched were published.

Sir Eric Geddes, replying, promised the fullest details of every yard and every ship.

PREMIER'S APPEAL FOR SPECIAL EFFORTS.

Mr. Lloyd George said there were 138 extensions of shipyards projected, of which 110 were in hand. He emphasised that Lord Pirie would be absolutely independent, subject only to the First Lord. The latter would be in a position to control both the Naval and Mercantile Controllers, with the War Cabinet as a final appeal. Complete co-operation between Lord Pirie and Sir Joseph Maclay was essential in order to achieve the desired aims. There was no shortage of steel supplies, but more would be required, both for Naval and Mercantile vessels.

Mr. Lloyd George, proceeding, described the difficulties of withdrawing skilled shipbuilders from the Army—men whose skill was often essential to batteries. He was not going to risk the efficiency of the Army in the field, at this very critical and perilous moment, by so doing. The Government believed that by special exertion the deficiency of 120,000 tons of British shipping could be made good, if we put our strength into the task. The Navy's work had been gratifying and there had been a gradual diminution in the losses inflicted by submarines, which, if it continued, and if the shipyards increased their output at the rate of 120,000 tons monthly as regards British shipping, or 100,000 tons monthly as regards the world's shipping, the whole of that deficiency could be wiped out. Such an achievement would do more to shorten the war than any individual effort of which Great Britain was capable, because it would not merely inflict a defeat on the enemy but bring home the fact that he could never defeat us as Mr. Asquith had said. The 1916 mercantile construction figures were due to the requirements of the Navy.

Mr. Lloyd George mentioned that Admiral Viscount Jellicoe was removed at his own request from the Grand Fleet to the Admiralty, specially to deal with the growing submarine menace.

AN INSTRUCTIVE DIAGRAM.

London, Mar. 21.

The Admiralty diagram shows the exaggerated German claims as regards the sinking of mercantile tonnage. The exaggeration which was only 40 per cent. in February, 1917, was 118 per cent. in January, 1918. The average percentage for the year was 60 per cent.

INTIMATIONS

THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, 25, George Street, Chater Road, Victoria, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 23rd day of March, 1918, at 11:30 o'clock in the forenoon for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1917, and declaring a Dividend.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED on THURSDAY, the 14th March, 1918, until SATURDAY, the 23rd March, 1918, both days inclusive.

By Order of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Hongkong, Mar. 8, 1918.

THE HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Office of the Company, 25, George Street, Hongkong, on MONDAY, 25th March, 1918, at 11:30 Noon, for consideration of the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

The SHARE REGISTER and TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 16th to the 25th instant, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

R. M. DYER,

Chief Manager.

Hongkong, March 13, 1918.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE FORTIETH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Office of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th instant, at 11:30 A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 27th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.

General Agents.

Hongkong, Mar. 6, 1918.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-NINTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Under-Secretary at 11 A.M. on WEDNESDAY, the 27th instant.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 12th to the 27th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.

General Managers.

Hongkong, Mar. 9, 1918.

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COLONIAL (HONGKONG) REGISTER of the Company will be CLOSED on TUESDAY, 26th March, 1918, to WEDNESDAY, 27th April, 1918, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

W. E. ROBERTS,

Secretary.

Hongkong, Mar. 16, 1918.

NOTICE.

WE have been APPOINTED by Messrs. JAMES & SONS, Limited, of London, to be the SOLE AGENTS in Hongkong, South China, and the Philippine Islands for the sale of their Vanities, Enamels, Paints, Colours and all kindred lines manufactured by them.

THE HONGKONG MERCANTILE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Hongkong, March 15, 1918.

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY.

THERAPION NO. 1

THERAPION NO. 2

THERAPION NO. 3

THERAPION NO. 4

THERAPION NO. 5

THERAPION NO. 6

THERAPION NO. 7

THERAPION NO. 8

THERAPION NO. 9

THERAPION NO. 10

THERAPION NO. 11

THERAPION NO. 12

THERAPION NO. 13

THERAPION NO. 14

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THERAPION NO. 29

THERAPION NO. 30

THERAPION NO. 31

THERAPION NO. 32

THERAPION NO. 33

THERAPION NO. 34

THERAPION NO. 35

INTIMATIONS

WANTED.

GODOWN in Good Condition at WEST POINT.

THORSEN & CO.

Hongkong, Mar. 20, 1918.

THE HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

PURCHASERS OF PARI-MUTUEL TICKETS on the fifth Race, Second Day, for Cash Sweepstakes and Winners, also Cash Sweep Ticket Holders, of following Races can obtain a refund on production of their tickets at the Office of the Hongkong Jockey Club, on the Ground Floor of the HONGKONG CLUB ANNEX, CHATER ROAD, between the hours of 3:30 P.M. and 4:30 P.M. on MONDAY, the 4th March, 1918, until 5:30th March (Saturdays and Sundays excepted).

HOLDERS OF UNPAID WINNING TICKETS (Cash Sweepstakes and Winners) will also be paid at the same place and between the same hours as stated above on production of their tickets.

LOWE, BINGHAM & MATTHEWS,

Accountants to the Hongkong Jockey Club.

Hongkong, Mar. 1, 1918.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

SAUSAGES.

SAUSAGES.

A Variety to suit all Tastes.

OXFORD SAUSAGES.

CAMBRIDGE "

PORK "

BEEF "

LIVER "

MOLOONE, HEAD CHEESE.

BLACK PUDDING.

WHITE "

&c. &c. &c.

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SAVE YOUR COUPONS

IN

“Embassy”

No. 77

CIGARETTES.

We have added to our list of Premiums the following shaving requisites and they are now obtainable with “EMBASSY” Coupons:

COLGATE'S SHAVING STICK, CREAM or POWDER

Redeemable for

10 No. 1

Coupons each.

WILLIAMS' SHAVING STICK or CREAM

do.

RAZOR BLADES GILLETTE DURHAM DUPLEX or AUTO.

Redeemable for

20 No. 1 Coupons

for a pkt. of 1 doz.

Send Coupons to:

BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CO., LTD.

HARRY LAUDER

HIS WAR PROPAGANDA WORK.

Harry Lauder, the famous comedian, has been doing great war propaganda work in the United States by addressing meetings. In an interview with him published in the "American Magazine" we are told that the patriotism which has led Harry Lauder to put his entire fortune of several millions into the British war-loan, and which keeps him at work for the benefit of the soldiers in camp both there and in Europe, is inspired by this twofold faith:

"Do not think," he said, "that I am bitter that my son was called by God to make the supreme sacrifice. Killed in any other manner, in times of peace, I think my life would have soured, and I would have become embittered against the world, but dying as John Lauder did, I can only say that, even with the knowledge of what pain his death has cost me, I would send him to France again to risk his life anew were it possible to-day to resurrect him from the ground. Because since his death I have been to France and I have seen the bleeding lily, and have come to realize more than ever that John Lauder's life was not given in vain, or uselessly.

"For, unless you have been to France, you cannot realize what is happening to that gentle country. I was riding in an automobile one day on what seemed to be a country road. There was nothing but torn-up fields to be seen, and the road itself was wrecked with shells and filled with rocks and bits of wood. Then suddenly our automobile happened to hit some obstruction, and gazing over the side of the machine I saw what seemed to me to be a curbside sticking up from beneath a pile of rubbish.

"I called an officer's attention to this, and gazing carefully over the side of the car, he said—

"Yes, that's about all that is left of the town of X. It was here about two months ago, but the Hun's cleaned out the town and the three thousand inhabitants, and they made a thorough job of it."

"My blood froze as he spoke, for upon gazing around me I could not even visualize the outlines of a town. There was not a ruin to be seen, not a wrecked house or church in sight. It was as if the place had never existed, for the people, homes, churches—everything—had been completely destroyed by shell-fire. That is what the Germans do to a town they bombard or pass through when on a retreat.

"I spent many days in the trenches, in the rest-camps, the hospitals, and in the surrounding towns, and the most definite impression I carried away was one concerning the spiritual atmosphere which surrounds the French and English soldiers in France. I talked with some of the men for hours at a time about their experiences in battle, about their thoughts of home, about their feeling toward the enemy, but the one thing I came away with, above all other impressions, was the conviction that every single one of these men, no matter what manner of life he had lived before, now possesses a calm, clear conviction that if he falls in the thick of the fight he will pass into the life beyond."

"That's why we are so much calmer, I am told, than you think. Do you think for a moment that if I thought that life held nothing for us that the earthly body we possess, we would fight with such a confidence and eagerness? We would not be able to, because we would be doing everything in our power to preserve this life of ours. But when men die as I have seen them, I know better than to disbelieve in a future life. And because

we have no fear of death, every one of us sings himself over the bags and on to the Hun with a fierce, almost savage joy. We are almost Japanese in our fatalism, and because that spirit is sweeping among our men we are going to win this war. We don't believe it possible that men who go into battle, knowing that they are fighting for a righteous cause, and unafraid of death, can be beaten back forever. Someday, at some point, the enemy must weaken, and then we will sweep over the tops and nothing will hold us back. We know it just as surely as we know the sun will rise to-morrow."

"In the days before the war, young Englishmen and Frenchmen were leading gay, careless lives, with hardly a thought for the morrow, or for such shadowy things as death or a future life. 'Let us live and be merry' was the cry then, but now it is all different. Because when men know that at any moment a shell may explode in their midst and blow them to shreds, or that an order may come during the night for certain regiments to make ready to go over the top at dawn, their thoughts are mostly on their God and on the life to come. And because they are all thinking of the same thing, a spiritual silence seems to come among them. The men go off by themselves and write their wills, to be delivered at home in case they do not come back, and all through the night you see silent, yet calm and peaceful faces in the dugouts, and, somehow, the religious atmosphere makes a definite impression upon you. So much so that one night an officer said to me, very quietly—

"When I see the men this way, I sometimes wonder, if this war was not brought about by God as the only means of making the world think of him and his laws more often!"

COUGHING INTO CONSUMPTION

"Only a Cough" is not so simple. It is ONLY a cough.

WATERBURY'S METABOLIZED COD LIVER OIL COMPOUND

The finest preparation made for combating severe coughs.

CURES any cough that is only a cough. Very palatable.

OF ALL DRUGGISTS.

Price 2/6 and 5/6.

Prepared by WATERBURY'S

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INTIMATIONS

G. FALCONER & CO., LTD.

WATCHMAKERS & JEWELLERS.

Hotel Mansions.

Agents for ADMIRALTY CHARTS

ROSS'S BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES,

KELVIN'S NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS,

BENSON'S ENGLISH WATCHES,

ENGLISH SILVERWARE, direct from Manufacturers

High Class English Jewellery

KAIPING COAL

INDUSTRIAL AND HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES

FOUNDRY AND SMELTING COKE

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FOR ALL INFORMATION APPLY TO

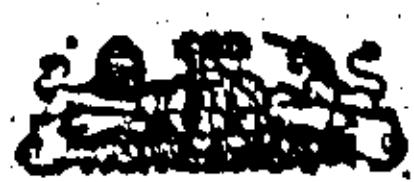
DODWELL & CO., LTD., QUEEN'S BUILDINGS, HONGKONG, OR

KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION,

TIENTSIN, NORTH CHINA.



FOR FITNESS AND EFFICIENCY DRINK



BY APPOINTMENT.

WATSON'S PYERIS.

REGISTERED

An exact reproduction of a well-known Spa at half the price.
Blends perfectly with Spirits, especially Whisky.

"A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep or touch not the Pyerian Spring.
There shallow drafts intoxicate the Brain
And drinking deeply sobers us again."—Pope.

Pints 90 Cts. Per Doz.
Splits 60 " " "

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

To-day's Advertisements

NATIONAL LOAN OF THE THIRD
YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC (1914).

SUBSCRIBERS to the above Loan
are hereby reminded that Interest
Coupons become invalid for payment
on the expiry of three years from the
date on which the half-yearly period
covered by them ends. Thus Coupon
No. 2 covering interest on the above
Loan for the period 1st January to 30th
June, 1915, will CEASE to be valid for
payment after 30th June, 1918. Bond-
holders who have not yet presented this
Coupon for payment should do so before
1st July, 1918.

F. A. AOLEN,
Inspector General of Customs.

TO LET.

FROM 1st May next, No. 1. ABMAI
VILLAS, corner of Kimberley and
Austin Road, Kowloon. One six-roomed
House, with separate bath-rooms and
kitchens. Apply to
PATELL & CO.,
King's Buildings, Top Floor.
Hongkong, Mar. 22, 1918.

PUBLIC AUCTION

THE Undersigned have received in-
structions from the Liquidator of the
HAMBURG AMERICA LINE, to sell by
Public Auction

THURSDAY,

the 25th March, 1918, at 11 a.m.,
at No. 3, Duddell Street,
A Portion of the Excellent and well
made OFFICE FURNITURE consisting
of Double Desks with Drawers, Office
Table, Large Teak Screen, &c., &c., &c.
Also

One STEEL SAFE by Arnheim, Berlin,
64 x 43 x 31.
One STEEL SAFE by Miller & Co.,
London, 31 x 28 x 28.
One UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER,
and a number of Telegraphic Code
Books, etc., etc.
On view from Wednesday, the 27th
instant.

Terms—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Mar. 22, 1918.

TO-MORROW'S

OVERLAND
CHINA MAIL

THE WEEKLY EDITION OF THE
"CHINA MAIL."

CONTAINS ALL THE NEWS
OF THE WEEK.

THE WEEK'S REPORTS OF THE
TRAGEDY INQUIRY.

PRICE 25 CTS. (cash) per Copy

THE CALENDAR.

MEMO FOR TO-MORROW.

11.30 a.m.—Green Island Cement Co.
annual meeting.

GENERAL MEMORANDA.

MONDAY, Mar. 25—

12 Noon—Annual Meeting of Hong-
kong & Whampoa Dock Co.

TUESDAY, March 26—

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Furniture &c.
at Hughes & Hough's.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household
Linens, &c. at Hughes & Hough's.

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 27—

Hongkong Stock Exchange Settlement
Day.

11 a.m.—Annual Meeting of Hong-
kong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

11.30 a.m.—Annual Meeting of China
Sugar Refining Co.

12 Noon—Annual Meeting of the
Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.

FRIDAY, March 30—

Good Friday.

Sunday, March 31—

Easter Sunday.

FRIDAY, April 6—

11 a.m.—Auction of Messrs. Panchard,
Lovyier & Co.'s Contractors' plant
at Matankok.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Exchange today is 3s 1½d on
demand.

Revised passage fares between
Hongkong and Canton by the Hong-
kong, Canton and Macao Co.'s steamers
are to come into force on Monday
next. Particulars appear in the Com-
pany's advertisement on the front page.

From a financial statement publish-
ed in the last Federated Malay States
Government Gazette it would appear
that during the first nine months of
last year the F. M. S. invested about
14½ million dollars in British War
Loans—making about 30 millions in all
so invested up to that date. The
presentation of a Dreadnought to the
British Navy, a cash gift which may
ultimately reach the best part of two
million dollars with more to go, is no
mean help rendered by these small
States with a population of little
more than a million, says the *Malay
Mail*. When in the years gone by the
British Government told the Malay
Sultans that British officers would
administer the Government on their
behalf, how little could the authorities
have foreseen that their trusteeship
would not only give safety to British
traders, but would ultimately be of
enormous benefit to the protecting
Power. Tin, of course, was extensively
worked by the Chinese even then, but
there was apparently no other source of
wealth from a jungle covered land which
possessed neither roads nor railways.

A LOCAL SHIPPING DEAL.

SALE OF CANTON RIVER
STEAMERS.

The well-known river steamer *Paul
Bass* and *Charles Hamilton*, which have
been on the Hongkong-Canton run for
the past thirteen or fourteen years have
just been taken off the run.

We learn unofficially that they have
been sold for the large sum of \$1,200,000.
The ships, which were specially built for
the river trade on which they have
been employed, are to be reconstructed
into sea-going vessels capable of carry-
ing about 1,000 tons of cargo each
on a draught of about 20 ft.

Both ships are steel twin-screw
steamers of 1,671 tons gross. They were
built at Nantes (France) in 1903 for
the Messageries Cantonnaises and then
traded under the French flag between
Hongkong and Canton till 1913 when
they were sold to Chinese and have
since been run under the Chinese flag
under which they will continue to be
operated, for we understand they have
been purchased on behalf of General
Lung Chai Kwong who is engaged,
under orders of the Government of
Peking, in military operations against
the Southern Irreconcilables.

We further learn that the work of
reconstruction is estimated to cost a
quarter of a million dollars.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

An unique feature of the St. George's
Day Celebrations will be the Tombola
for which the ladies of the Colony are
responsible and for the success of which
help is asked from every member of the
community.

The Tombola scheme falls under two
heads, spins and prizes. Thousands of
spins will be offered for sale at a dollar
each and a large proportion of these
spins will contain a number entitling the
buyer of that spin to the prize from the
Tombola bearing the same number.
Many valuable prizes have already been
presented, and, in the course of the
next few days, an appeal will be made
to the members of the Community
inviting them to spare something out of
their superfluity for a prize. Any
article with the exception of clothing
will be acceptable.

The play the *A. D. C.* has in
rehearsal on St. George's Day is that
engrossing drama by A. E. W. Mason,
founded on his thrilling novel of the
same name—*"The Witness for the
Defence"*. Originally produced in
London some years ago at the James
Theatre, with Sir George Alexander and
Ethel Irving in the leading roles, it
enjoyed a very long and prosperous run
with several successful revivals. Quite
recently the Shanghai A. D. C. scored
a notable triumph in it. The cast
secured for the Hongkong production
promises to be a strong combination of
the finest amateur talent assembled on
our local boards within recent years,
and a very interesting and finished
rendering of this strong play of human
emotion may safely be predicted.

GOVERNMENT SERVANT
CHARGED WITH
EMBEZZLEMENT."DRIVEN OUT OF HIS SENSES BY
MONEY LENDERS."

Albert J. Edwards, accountant and
storekeeper of the Government Civil
Hospital was charged on remand before
Mr. J. R. Wood this morning with
embezzling the sum of \$500.

Mr. Lee Longinotto, the assistant
Crown Solicitor presented.
When the case was called defendant,
addressing the Magistrate, said:—May
I make a request, Sir?

The Magistrate: I think you had
better bear the evidence first.

The first witness called was Dr.
Johnson, the Principal Civil Medical
Officer. He said that the defendant
had been the accountant and store-
keeper of the hospital since May 1917.
One of the defendant's duties was to
receive monies from persons paying
them to the Government Treasury. On
the 17th February witness received
from the Government a cheque for
\$500 to make advances to the Chinese
staff of the hospital for the Chinese
New Year. Witness endorsed the cheque,
and handed it to the defendant. At the
end of February, witness received the
usual cheque for a full month's salary
for the department. This cheque
witness also endorsed and handed it to
the defendant. The defendant's duty
was to cash the cheque and to pay the
money to the staff. Witness did not give
any definite instructions as to how the
\$500 advanced to the staff was to be
deducted from the salary or recovered
after the salary had been paid. But
defendant's duty was to recover the
\$500 and to remit the money to the
Treasury. On the 4th March, defendant
came to witness and asked to be
allowed half a day's leave. Permission
was granted. The next day witness
received a medical certificate from
Dr. Woodman stating that defendant
was allowed a day's sick leave. On the
6th March when witness went to the
hospital he found defendant did not
return to the office. Witness found in
the defendant's office paybooks purporting
to bear the signature of all persons to
whom advances had been made, and also
the receipt of the full month's salary.
Immediately after lunch, seeing that
the defendant had not returned, witness
reported his absence to the Colonial
Secretary, the C.I.D. and to the
Audit Department.

Defendant was searched for but could
not be found. That night between 9
and 10 o'clock witness received a
telephone message from Inspector
Davitt at Kowloon city stating that a
Chinese informed him that Mr. Edwards
was in his house. Witness told him to
bring Mr. Edwards across to Inspector
Grant at the Central Police Station.
Witness also telephoned to Inspector
Grant and asked him to send for Dr.
McKenny to be present on Mr. Edwards'
arrival as he did not know whether he
had suddenly gone ill or insane. When
witness arrived on Thursday the 7th,
he found the defendant in his own
quarter lying in his bed. When he
entered the room defendant said: "It
is an sorry thing giving you all this
trouble. Witness asked him if the
accounts were all correct and he replied
that he had been involved in money
difficulties and had used some Govern-
ment money.

Did he specify the amount?—No. I
asked him why he went away. He
said he had gone out of his mind
for sometime. He knew he had
done something wrong and had got
more and more involved. On the
morning of the 6th instant he left the
office to go and speak to a priest and
that priest advised him to go to see
witness and to give an account of his
wrongdoing. Defendant did not do
so, because he was afraid. He wished
he had done so. The next thing he
knew was that he found himself in
Kowloon. He did not know how he
got there. He walked and walked the
whole day and when he got tired he
entered a Chinese house in Kowloon city.
Continuing, witness said that after
the interview in the afternoon the first
time was opened by Dr. McKenny.
There was a sum of \$399.73 in the safe,
of which \$208.95 was in cheques.
This sum had no connection with
the \$500 in connection with which
defendant was charged. A later
interview took place, again at the
Hospital. Dr. McKenny was present.
At this interview defendant again said
that he had used Government money.
He was very penitent and asked for
an opportunity of retrieving his position.
Witness told him that he was afraid he
could not do anything for him; he had
no alternative but to have him charged.
"As I have made my own bed I must
lie on it," was defendant's reply. "I
have spoiled my 15 years of good
service. I owed money to an Indian
money lender. I have paid this and 14
times over, but he has nearly driven me
out of my senses by his persecution." He
admitted he had been very foolish.
Witness said that the defendant was
his subordinate. Defendant had been
very forceful recently and often had
to be restrained.

Inspector Grant giving evidence of
the arrest said the defendant was very
distracted when he was arrested.

Mr. Li Yuk, chief clerk at the
hospital, said he received \$80 from the
defendant early in February. At the
end of the month he received \$153.60
from the defendant and repaid to him
\$80 as refund to the Government. He
did not receive a receipt for the money.

Another Chinese witness said he
received \$50 advance early in February,
and \$10 more at the end of the month.
He received the money from a Chinese
clerk in the comptroller's department.
He repaid the \$50.

The case was adjourned until next
Tuesday at 2 o'clock.

RACE COURSE TRAGEDY
INQUIRY.

ELEVENTH DAY OF INQUIRY.

The inquiry into the circumstances
attending the tragedy at the Race
Course on Feb. 25 was continued at the
Magistrate's court this morning. Before
proceeding with the inquiry the Coroner
(Mr. J. R. Wood) said he would like
Mr. Bowley to get the *Sze Hop* firm to
make a model of sheds Nos 8 and 9.
Mr. Bowley agreed.

Mr. E. J. Grist giving evidence said
he was a member of the committee of
the Royal Hongkong Golf Club. In
the year 1911 the Golf Club committee
approached the P. W. D. with a view
to preserving the greens over which the
mats were built. In consequence
of this representation, the P. W. D.
made the regulation to preserve the
greens. There was a suggestion made
that it would be advantageous if the
supports of the sheds were not inserted
in the ground, though as a matter of
fact there was never a hole dug in the
ground for the insertion of the supports
at all.

By the Crown Solicitor: Before
that, people went across the greens
when they came out of the mats, and
that was why the causeway and the
fence at the rear of the mats were
erected. It was the Golf Club Com-
mittee who made the suggestions.

By Mr. Bowley: The mats as
they were now constructed, covered a
portion of the greens. They were never
able to preserve the whole of the greens.
By Mr. Lo: They left it to the
P. W. D. to guard the safety and the
interest of the public.

W. J. Wilkinson, overseer of the
Hongkong Land Investment Co., said
he was on the top floor of shed No. 8
when the collapse occurred. His wife
and 4 children were with him. At 2.55
p.m. he heard a cracking sound similar
to that of an earthquake. It seemed to
occur in the shed where he was. The
whole of the shed swayed to and fro
for a moment and then suddenly
collapsed. He was thrown down. There
were about 50 people in the same floor
with him. There was no abnormal
movement in the shed. He did not
notice any unusual movement of people
in the other sheds. His relatives were
buried in the debris also. When the
collapse occurred he was afraid to move
lest some debris might strike him. When
he got up he saw a fire in the partition
between sheds Nos. 8 and 9. It was
on the partition on a level with the
first floor. It was a very small fire and
seemed as if it had just commenced.

He was of opinion that this fire started
subsequent to the collapse. He fought
his way through the roof and got his
family out. They crawled along the
roof and got down on to the Wong Nei
Chong Road. When he got down, the
fire was burning fiercely. Witness was
of opinion that the 300 bodies found
near sheds 8 and 9 were pinned down
by the boards during the collapse. He
did not think the stairway collapsed
independently. Shed No. 8 fell in the
direction of shed No. 9. He was
perfectly sure of that.

By the Crown Solicitor: He got his
family home, but soon returned after
he missed one of his daughters. When
he arrived there he saw 200 bodies
approximately in the position where he
saw the fire commence.

By Mr. Bowley: He did not climb
over the railings whilst getting away
from the fire. He got through an
opening from the railings. Part of the
railings were taken away during the
collapse to allow access to the sheds. He
saw two chatters on the first floor of
shed No. 8. He could not say whether
they were slight at the time of the
collapse. He could see the first floor
of shed No. 8 from the top floor which
was only a half floor. The first floor
contained about 200 persons. They
were constantly moving about. When
the sheds began to crack people in the
first floor rushed to the door.

By Mr. Stevenson: When he re-
turned the Fire Brigade was already at
work. There was no pressure of water
to work the hose at all. The time
would be about twenty to thirty
minutes past two.

By Mr. Lo: He was of opinion that
shed No. 8 collapsed first, knocking down
shed No. 9 with it.

By the Coroner: He did not see the
shed falling vertically at all. What may
have happened was a general movement
causing the upright poles to shift be-
cause they were not inserted in the
ground. The upright poles should have
been inserted at least three feet in the
ground. He served an apprenticeship in
the building trade. His opinion was
that the collapse was due to the up-
rights giving way. It looked as if the
uprights of shed No. 9 were not properly
placed.

By Mr. Bowley: He had been in
Hongkong for 28 years. Had frequently
seen upright poles inserted three feet in
places where the ground was soft. If
he were supervising the construction of
the mats, he would have all the
upright poles inserted at least three
feet in soft ground. He considered the
site where the mats were built to be
soft ground. He had experienced a
burst ground. The ground must be soft
at least one foot for the turf to grow.
He admitted that the ground would be
harder in dry weather. He expected to
find soft ground in turf ground. If the
upright poles of the mats had been
inserted in the ground to any extent at
all there would have been no collapse.
For this was no ordinary collapse in any
sense. He believed the uprights must
have gone down through movements at
the base of the sheds. The bracing of
the uprights to sleepers on the ground
would not afford sufficient stability to

the sheds as the lashing could be loosened
by constant movement of people
above. Partitions made of mats and
bamboo would not affect the stability
of the mats at all. In his opinion
a party wall could be safely attached to
any set of uprights or uprights on the
interior uprights or uprights on the
exterior wall of the shed.

By the Coroner: He considered the
difference in the change of construction
of floors at different levels in the sheds,
a risky change, as the power of
resistance to a thrust was not so great.
It would be quite safe to build three-
storeyed mats, if they were
only properly constructed.

Chui Chow, a Chinese boy, said that on
26th February he was on the first floor
of shed 13. He felt a cracking sound
coming from the floor of the stand and
not the roof. The floor was full of
people. There was a stampedale after
the cracking sound and the shed came
down in five minutes. He came out of
roof, and he noticed a fire in No. 11.
There was no fire in shed 13. There
was no fire further on.

Mong Sui Hing, No. 2 boy of the
Golf Club, said that at the time of the
collapse he was in the Golf Club. He
saw the whole row of mats fall with
a very sharp crack. He ran inside
and ran upstairs and closed the windows,
and then warned the Europeans in the
Club. He was told to get buckets of
water ready and to take the things out.
He saw no fire until a quarter of an
hour after going up.

The Coroner:—Where did you see
the fire?—Between sheds 9 and 10.

By Mr. Bowley: He fetched the
water from the kitchen. He had only
two buckets.

By the Coroner: It was very
difficult to say if they could put the
fire out. He did not know whether the
flashes were tampered with. He did
not know what caused the collapse.
When he saw the mats collapse he
went to close the windows. His
instructions were to open the windows
during tiffin time and to close them
after lunch. When he saw the fire it
was on the Golf Club side. When he
saw the fire the fence between the Golf
Club and the Racecourse had been
knocked down.

J. J. Gast, a warder at Victoria
Jail, said that at the time of the collapse
he was standing in the Grand Stand
enclosure, just at the top of the slope.
He first heard a crack, and looking
he saw a booth second or third from
the Golf Club side—about shed No. 10
—collapse to the south. A few seconds
after, the whole row fell like a pack of
cards. He rushed to the race track and
into the middle of the booth and
assisted in extricating women buried
under the debris. A few minutes after
he saw the fire. He continued working
until the fire drove him and a soldier
away. He first noticed the fire in the
night. He was then in 9 or 14 booth.

By the Crown Solicitor: He did
not see any sign of a stampedale before
the collapse.

By Mr. Bowley: He had been to
the sheds by passing through the rails
in front of the sheds.

By the Coroner: He had been to
the Japanese shed and also to shed No.
12. The Japanese shed was pretty
full, but shed No. 12 was not so full.

By Mr. Lo: He heard a shout of
fire a few minutes after he had gone to
the reason of people in the shed. The
interval between the collapse and the
fire was very short.

J. M. Dyer, a clerk in the Police
office, said he was in sheds 4, 5 and 6
at the time of the collapse. He
first saw the sheds shake and
then sink. He remained in the
shed three minutes after the collapse,
helping people out. When he got out
himself he saw smoke issuing out from
a point between sheds 7 and 8.

By the Crown Solicitor:—He first
saw people standing nearest the door
making a rush outside. He did not
know why they did so and thought
some trouble was going on outside and
that people had gone out to see. The
partition of the shed No. 7 fell into the
shed where he was.

J. C. West, principal warder of the
Victoria Gaol, said he was in the Grand
Stand enclosure when the collapse
occurred. He heard somebody beside
him call out: "mats, falling." He
looked up at once and saw all the
booths fall to the left of him.
commencing with booth No. 10. He
saw the fire between booths Nos. 12
and 13.

By the Crown Solicitor: He saw no
stampedale.

By the Coroner: The roof of the
mats were built in such a way that
it resisted water. The upright poles of
the sheds seemed to witness to point
towards the centeries behind.

So Chun Chiu, a partner in shed No.
12, said he inspected the shed previous
to the collapse. The shed was built on
the same plan as that of last year. He
saw the fire near sheds Nos. 8 to 10.
The fire did not break out in sheds 12,
13, 14 or 15.

The inquiry is proceeding.

BRUTAL MURDER AT YEE HO
STREET.

TWO CHINESE CHARGED.

At the Magistrate's court this morning, two
Chinese sugar sifters were charged with
the murder of Lai Mao, a sugar sifter
in the employ of the China Sugar
Refinery, on the 18th instant.

Defendants pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case
until next week.

THE EPIDEMIC DAILY RETURN.

To-day's return for the 24 hours ended
March 21st shows 16 cases of cerebro-
spinal fever. There were 12 deaths.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

A FORGED BANK NOTE.

The Criminal Sessions were re-
sumed this afternoon, before Sir
William Rees Davies, K.C., Chief
Justice.

Cheung Chung was charged with
uttering a forged bank note and
with being in possession of a forged
bank note.

The Attorney-General appeared on
behalf of the Crown and the accused,
who pleaded not guilty, was un-
defended.

The juryman were:—Messrs. A.
G. Hewlett, N. S. Brown, W. L.
Weisser, M. A. Razack, J. M. Wong,
P. V. H. Botelho and T. Arnott.

Opening the case for the Crown,
the Attorney-General said the charge
involved two elements. He had got
to prove first that the accused passed
the note, and secondly that the
accused knew at the time that the
note was forged. The note in question
was a five-dollar note of the
Chartered Bank which had been
altered to appear to be a one hun-
dred dollar note. The evidence was
that on February 15, the prisoner
went to a beef stall in the Central
Market and asked a man to change
this note, which was done. The man
at the beef stall afterwards discover-
ed that the note was a forged one,
and eventually the prisoner was
arrested. The Attorney-General said
he did not think there was any dis-
pute on the question of the passing
of the note; he thought the defence
was that the prisoner did not know
at the time that the note was forged.

To prove prisoner's knowledge, the
Attorney-General said he would
direct the attention of the jury to
two things in the evidence. One
was the fact of the accused going to
the beef stall to get the money
changed, when there were plenty of
money changers' shops close at hand
and the other point was the fact that
the prisoner is known to have passed
off a similar forged note on a friend
in a gambling shop. There was
another point and that was that the
accused was a shop coolie and one
would like to know what a shop
coolie was doing with a \$100 note
and how it came that a shop coolie
had notes to the value of \$185
which were found on him when he
was arrested. It was rather a big
amount for a shop coolie to carry.

N. J. Austin, a cashier in the
Chartered Bank, gave evidence as
to the notes being forged.

After hearing further evidence the
jury found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship sentenced the ac-
cused to five years' imprisonment
with hard labour.

THE BANK OF CANTON, LIMITED.

The Report of the Board of Directors
is as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now
to submit to you a general statement of
the affairs of the Company and Balance
Sheet for the year ending 31st Decem-
ber, 1917.

The net profits for that period, after
paying all charges, and providing for
BONUS, Bad and Doubtful Debts, leave
\$269,750.73, which, added to balance
brought forward from 1916, \$27,071.12
amounts to \$296,821.84 for appropriation.

It is now proposed to deal with the
net profits as follows:—

To Transfer to Reserve	
Fund.....	\$120,000.00
Transfer to Invest- ment Reserve Fund	20,000.00
Write off Furniture, Fittings & Vail.	164.55
Write off Stationery Account.....	3,182.24
Write off Under- writing Commission Account.....	30,000.00

TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

HOLLAND'S SHIPPING

DEBATE IN THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, Mar. 21.
In the Second Chamber at The Hague, M. Louren, Foreign Minister, stated that the placing of the ships at the disposal of the Allies was not a breach of neutrality. The Government at first intended to refuse the use of Holland's shipping, but reconsidered the question in view of the interests of her industries, and the shipping of the Colonies involved. He said the intention of the associated Powers appeared to be to requisition the whole of Holland's shipping outside Dutch ports, namely, a million tons.

A long debate followed in which a number of members protested against the proposed agreement and criticised the attitude of the Government. M. Troelstra, the leader of the Social Democrats, said he hesitated to declare that the Government was departing from neutrality and reserved his decision until after the Government's reply. He urged Holland to endeavour to obtain wheat from Ukraine.

M. Louren replies on the debate to-morrow.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

ENEMY RAIDS REPULSED.

LONDON, Mar. 20.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—
We repulsed raiders southward of Passchendaele and northward of Poelcapelle, taking prisoners.
Hostile artillery firing was active in the La Bassée Canal, Bois Grenier and Passchendaele.

THE FRENCH LINE.

ATTACK BY STOSSTRUPPEN COMPLETELY DEFEATED.

LONDON, Mar. 21.
A French communiqué states:—
There has been artillery activity between Miette and the Aisne, also in Champagne.
Artillery firing was somewhat violent on the right of the Meuse and at Parroy Wood.

In the Woëvre region and Bois Brede the enemy heavily attacked. After a stiff fight we ejected the parties which had gained a footing on some of our advanced elements.
The enemy attack on Sonain, mentioned this morning, was carried out by two battalions of Stosstruppen, who suffered heavy casualties and were completely defeated.

Our aeroplanes dropped 13 tons of bombs behind the enemy lines and a number of explosions and two fires were observed.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

BRITISH SHIPPING RETURNS.

LONDON, Mar. 20.
The Admiralty issues the following returns for the week:—

Arrivals	2,098
Sailings	2,317
Vessels sunk (over 1,000 tons)	11
Vessels sunk (under 1,000 tons)	19
Vessels unsuccessfully attacked	11
Fishing vessels sunk	2

FRENCH SHIPPING RETURNS.

LONDON, Mar. 20.
The French shipping returns for the week are as follows:—

Arrivals	975
Departures	920
Vessels sunk (over 1,000 tons)	2
Vessels sunk (under 1,000 tons)	2

ITALIAN SHIPPING RETURNS.

LONDON, Mar. 20.
The Italian shipping returns, issued for the week ending 16th instant, are as follows:—

Arrivals	407
Departures	422
Steamer sunk (over 1,000 tons)	1
Sailing vessel sunk (over 100 tons)	1
Sailing vessel sunk (under 100 tons)	1

AMERICA AND RUSSIA.

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ON THE SITUATION.

STILL AN ALLY OF RUSSIA.

MOSCOW, Mar. 21.
The American Ambassador has been asked whether in view of the ratification of the Peace Treaty the American Consulate would leave Russia. He has replied:—

"I will not leave Russia until forced to do so. The American Government and people are too deeply interested in the prosperity of the Russian people to abandon Russia to the Germans, and will do their utmost to safeguard the real interests of the country. If the brave and patriotic Russian people will for the time abandon their political disagreements and act resolutely and vigorously they will be able to expel the enemy and guarantee a lasting peace for itself and the whole world by the end of 1918. My Government still counts America as an ally of the Russian people. We are ready to help any Government which will sincerely organise a vigorous resistance to the German invasion."

BRITAIN'S CONSTANT DESIRE FOR PEACE.

PRINCE LICHNOWSKY'S MEMORANDUM.

DISCUSSED IN REICHSTAG.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 21.
A message from Berlin states that Prince Lichnowsky's Memorandum, which was cabled on the 15th inst., was discussed by the Main Committee of the Reichstag on the 16th. The Vice-Chancellor, Herr von Payer, said that Prince Lichnowsky, in the course of a statement to Count Hertling on the 15th instant, said that the Memorandum was intended only for his family archives. He showed it, on the assurance of absolute secrecy, to a few political friends. He deeply regretted the vexatious indiscretion by which it was more widely circulated. Herr von Payer added that Prince Lichnowsky had resigned his Ambassadorial rank and as he was obviously only guilty of imprudence no further steps would be taken against him.

Herr von Payer proceeded to contradict some of Prince Lichnowsky's assertions, declaring that the key to Prince Lichnowsky's mistakes were false conclusions regarding events before the war. It was probably Prince Lichnowsky's over-estimate of his own services and his hatred of those who did not recognise his achievements as he expected.

Herr von Payer declared that the entire Memorandum was penetrated by a striking veneration for foreign diplomats, especially British, whom Prince Lichnowsky described in a truly affectionate manner, and by an equally striking irritation against almost all German statesmen. The result was that Prince Lichnowsky frequently regarded Germany's most zealous enemies as her best friends, because they were personally on good terms with him. The aim of the Memorandum was obvious, namely to show how much better and more enlightened Prince Lichnowsky's policy was, and how he could have assured peace for the empire if his policy had been followed.

[The Memorandum, referred to, was written in August, 1914, by Prince Lichnowsky on German policy when he was Ambassador in London, for the purpose of expounding and justifying his position to his personal friends. One of these copies, through betrayal, reached the Wilhelmstrasse. The British statesman's aim, he wrote, "is not to isolate Germany but to get Germany to participate in an already established concert by removing causes of friction between England and Germany and securing a world peace by a network of agreements."]

THE GALLIOLI OPERATIONS.

NO ISSUE OF A MEDAL OR RIBBON AT PRESENT.

LONDON, Mar. 22.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Macpherson (Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office) stated that he did not intend to issue at present a special Imperial medal or ribbon for operations in Gallipoli.

TROUBLE AVERTED.

THAT little cold and sore throat of yours must be checked at once or it may develop into something worse. Take a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and your troubles will soon vanish. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, Mar. 19.
The Silver Market is firm, with limited supplies.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FIXING PRICE.

LONDON, Mar. 19.
The Times Washington Correspondent states that a Bill is being introduced in Congress authorising the Government to melt down and sell 200,000,000 silver dollars out of the 400,000,000 now in the Treasury vaults. It is understood this will be virtually equivalent to the Government's fixing the price of silver at about a dollar an ounce. Silver producers and dealers have agreed informally to sell the country's entire output for the next year or two at a fixed price, probably ninety-eight cents or a dollar an ounce, to replace the silver dollars melted down for export to India, China and Japan.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

GENERAL ACTIVITY ON FRENCH LINES.

LONDON, Mar. 20.
A French communiqué states:—
There was fairly great enemy artillery activity in Champagne, on the right of the Meuse and in Woëvre.
After lively bombardments the enemy at several points on the Front engaged in infantry actions which, however, were abortive.

An enemy *compote* north-east of Reims was arrested without difficulty. The enemy tried to attempt to reach our lines in the Souain sector, but our violent fire compelled him to withdraw with serious losses.

A strong enemy attack south of Arras in Lorraine resulted in violent hand-to-hand fighting. We partly gained the advantage and repelled the enemy, taking some prisoners.

DISAFFECTION IN BALUCHISTAN.

PUNITIVE MEASURE ORDERED.

LONDON, Mar. 20.
The Press Bureau states that the attitude of the Maris in Baluchistan is unsatisfactory. They have committed numerous outrages against telegraphs, trains and Government property, and have attacked our posts at Gumbaz and Fort Munro. They were repulsed with heavy casualties but are still defiant. Punitive measures are now ordered.

THE EMPIRE'S MILITARY EFFORTS.

THE PART OF THE SMALLER COLONIES.

LONDON, Mar. 19.
The War Cabinet's report for 1917 says that the smaller colonies and protectorates have contributed their full share to the military effort of the Empire. Labour corps from the Eastern colonies have been sent to Mesopotamia and East Africa, and despite the unfavourable conditions, to the Western theatre. A large number of individuals from overseas possessions such as the Malay States and Hongkong have also joined the Imperial forces.

SEAPLANE FIGHT OFF BORKUM.

ENEMY MACHINE BROUGHT DOWN.

LONDON, Mar. 20.
The Admiralty announces that a British seaplane patrol in Heligoland Bight engaged two seaplanes ten miles north-eastward of Borkum on Tuesday. They drove down one in flames. All our machines returned.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA IN SHANGHAI.

"A Scotchwoman" writes to the "N.C.D. News":—
"May I, through the medium of your esteemed daily, make public an experience which happened to me the other day. I boarded a tram car in the Hongkong district. I entered and there were only two Chinese men, of the middle-class type, in the car. At the first request stop, a well-built Hun got in, and after glancing round, sat down directly opposite the Chinese, and in a loud, boisterous manner, 'Good morning, gentlemen.' They returned the salutation and he immediately entered into conversation with them. His manners were all that could be desired, until he introduced the subject of the European War, and then there came a regular explosion of wrath and insult against the English. To say he called us no good is putting it very mildly. Then he went on to explain how during Germany had become, 'since we have subdued Russia, we have taken her land, her navy, her money and made her army demobilised, adding naively, 'how it is up to your country to join our Fatherland, before it is too late, or your country will become the same as Russia in a short time.' A great deal more talk went on, in which he took care to point out the benefits China could gain, etc., if she would only go over to Germany."

"Now I made my blood boil to have to sit and listen to such lies and rubbish, but I could do nothing, dear Sir, in the circumstances, considering I am only a woman, four feet ten inches, and he was a man over six feet. However, I feel bound to make my protest against such propaganda being allowed."

"There was quite a lot of discussion about why the Hun should be interned, but lately it seems to have been forgotten. Consider it is a very real evil in our midst, and such experiences should help to disillusion any Ally or neutral who still lives in the hope that the Hun are harmless in Shanghai or elsewhere. Hoping you may find space to insert the protest—Yours, etc."

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

[Chinese Mail Service.]

Peking, Mar. 21.
Chu Shu-tsung summoned the representatives of the Provinces to hold a Conference at the Tzuwan's Yamen at Tientsin and it was decided to continue fighting, although Yochow has been re-taken, owing to possible changes in the situation along the Yangtze Valley.

The Palace Conference has decided to order the Northern troops to continue fighting the South.

A telegram has also been sent to the Provinces urging them to continue making preparations for fighting.

Tsun Chun-wen has telegraphed that since the Southerners have retired from Yochow the Northerners have regained "face," and in view of the critical situation in foreign and domestic affairs it is imperative to make peace immediately.

Nei Sze-chung has telegraphed urging Tuan Ki-sui to come out and requesting the Government to avail itself of the successful advance on Changsha. Tuan Ki-sui replied expressing his willingness to come out if the Yangtze Valley Tzuwans will support him.

Nei Sze-chung has telegraphed to the Palace asking why Li Shun has despatched troops to Chuchow and Kwai-chow, numbering about two divisions, and requesting the Government to instruct him to withdraw them immediately.

Tao Kwan has informed Chang Jui-kum that it is not necessary to come to the South, because Yochow has been re-taken.

The Government has decided to re-capture Changsha before they make peace.

Chang Jui-kum has again telegraphed to the President direct declaring that he must form a strong Cabinet. He is also sending delegates, Lau Hung-yun and Kam Ting-fun, to Peking to discuss the matter. Chu Shu-tsung has asked Tao Yui to get Tao Kwan to head a telegram recommending Tuan Ki-sui as Premier. He has sent six representatives to Hupei to see Tao Kwan.

Fung Yuh-sheng has telegraphed to the Government that disturbances in the interior of Anhui were created by other soldiers and bandits, and requested the Government not to mistake them for his troops.

THE PROPOSED BOND ISSUE.

The Intelligence Bureau of Canton communicates the following:—

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Generalissimo of the Military Government, has approved of the National Assembly in Extraordinary Session in Canton declaring as unconstitutional and illegal the proposed Domestic Bonds of the Seventh Year of the Republic to be issued by the Peking Government.

In accordance with the resolution of the National Assembly in Extraordinary Session, the Rules and Regulations of the Ministry of Finance governing the issue and circulation of the Domestic Bonds of the Seventh Year of the Republic shall be at once repealed, neither the Bureaus of Communications of China nor the people may possess or negotiate the bonds referred to; and the Civil Governments of all provinces are notified to retain all contributions and indemnity funds usually due to Peking, but not to spend them at will until a legal government is re-established and the National Assembly decides on their proper disposal.

The Diplomatic Corps in Peking will be advised of the action of the National Assembly in Extraordinary Session.

The National Assembly is expected to meet in regular session on June 12. For military purposes the Military Government took over the Canton-Samshai Railroad, replacing the managing director, sent from the Peking Ministry of Communications with one from a similar department of the Military Government.

General Tan Hoo-ming reports that the Southern troops have re-taken Yochow in Hunan.

A FAMILY NECESSITY.

Every family should be provided with Chamberlain's Pain-Balm at all times. Sprains may be cured in much less time when promptly treated. Lame back, lame shoulder, pains in the side and chest, rheumatic joints, are some of the ailments for which it is especially valuable. Try this liniment and become acquainted with its qualities and you will never wish to be without it. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

THE KOWLOON BOWLING GREEN CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club was held at the Club pavilion last evening at 5.30 p.m.

Mr. W. Davison presided and there was a good attendance of Club members. After the Hon. Secretary, (Mr. D. S. Cooper), had read the notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the last meeting, the President said the members had had the balance sheet in their hands for some time and he proposed to take it as read. He thought it would be found very creditable, as the profit on the working of the Club was \$1,355.94.

The bar had brought in a considerable sum of money, more than ever before, and he did not think the Club ever stood in a better financial position. It would be noticed that it was proposed to give an honorarium to the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer and he hoped it would meet with general approval. The work was very hard and he thought it was the duty of the members to see that these officers were rewarded in some way. He hoped that the members would pass this unanimously when the motion was put. The membership this year had increased by twelve and the total membership now stood at 142. He thought it was only right that he should express thanks to Messrs. Owens and Oswald for presenting a prize for the Rink competition, for which they were all very grateful. The Club had been very successful in competitions, being second in the League, and he hoped next year they would be still more successful and be first. All the members played well but did not always turn up when wanted—(Laughter). They had lost by death during the year one of their most popular members in Mr. John Henderson who was practically one of the founders of the Club, and up to the time of his sickness he had been a regular attendant. The Committee had sent a small token to be placed on his grave. He was sure they all deeply sympathised with Mrs. Henderson in her bereavement.

The President then proposed and Captain Murray seconded the adoption of the Report and Accounts and the motion was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. W. Davison, in accordance with the usual custom of the Club, retired from the President's Chair and Mr. J. E. Chapman was elected, by ballot, to fill the office.

Mr. W. J. Owens was unanimously elected Vice-President. Mr. D. S. Cooper and Mr. J. Morris were re-elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively, the ballot being unanimous.

The following Committee was elected:—Messrs. D. Gow, W. Russell, D. Neilson, D. Harvey, J. S. Mackintosh, C. Atkinson, A. M. Simpson and V. C. Labrum.

Mr. OWENS expressed thanks for the honour accorded him in being elected Vice-President and hoped the Club would have as good a season this year as last. He hoped Mr. Chapman would soon be able to be with them. The good season last year was principally due to the efforts of Mr. Davison, and he asked the members present to drink the health of their retiring president.

Mr. DAVISON expressed thanks and said he was particularly grateful for the help he had received from the Committee during the past year.

The following members promised to present cups, as follows:—Messrs. W. Davison, W. J. Owens, W. Russell, D. Neilson, D. Harvey, J. S. Mackintosh, Messrs. A. Milroy and Neilson (Golf), Messrs. J. Ross and B. Hall (Tennis), Mr. J. B. Chapman will also present a cup.

Mr. D. Gow, on behalf of Mrs. Henderson, then thanked the members for their vote of sympathy and undertook to convey the information to Mrs. Henderson.

A vote of thanks was then warmly accorded the retiring president and the meeting terminated.

"How I spent Christmas" has formed many a chapter of matter for periodicals. One who did not confess was Yenchow. He would have died rather than let it be known that he gave his Christmas leisure to blowing soap bubbles for the children and "humping his shoulders, bawling, pretending to be a giant." But the picture is pleasant, less than that of Carlyle remarking to Moncreaf Conway, "Christmas Day I—ah yes I had forgotten, but remembering that the crowd at the public house at the corner was larger than ever, I did remember that it was the birthday of their Redeemer."

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GERMANY AT THE START OF 1918.

Reports of explosions in Germany are becoming increasingly numerous, notwithstanding all the efforts of the German authorities to suppress them, writes an Amsterdam correspondent. A Karlsruhe telegram to the "Frankfurter Zeitung" states that an explosion occurred at certain munition factories, presumably caused through improper manipulation of the ammunition. A fire followed the explosion, and three persons were killed and five injured. The damage, says the telegram, was relatively slight. Experience shows that these notices are never inserted in the German Press unless absolutely necessary in order to reassure the public. Slight explosions are left unreported.

The Mannheim "Volkstimme" reported a serious explosion in munition factories at Kirchheim, near Forbach, followed by an extensive fire, and the death or injury of many people. Apparently this explosion and fire are identical with those reported from Karlsruhe as very slight.

These repeated explosions are causing considerable anxiety in military quarters, not only because of the interference with the supply of munitions thereby occasioned, but also because of the spirit of unrest in the districts where they occur. This unrest has been acute since the advent of the frost, with the attendant suffering and the paralysis of potato transport.

The air-raid reprisals undertaken by the Allies are, I have good reason to know, having a most salutary effect in awakening the population to a sense of the consequences produced by the Germans' ruthless air policy. Only by this means can the German home population be brought to realise their mistakes. Every Entente air-raid is a most valuable educational influence in this direction. Great nervousness is felt throughout Germany, especially in the more exposed parts, by the intention of the Americans to invade Germany by air. This subject is universally discussed, though efforts are being made to calm the uneasiness by disquisitions about American bluff.

Recent complaints of potatoes being given to pigs are true, but they only convey part of the truth. Very large quantities of potatoes are being employed for feeding the horses of the German Army, and potato stocks for human food are not likely to be diminished by any reduction in this demand, which the German authorities endeavoured to keep secret.

Despite the assumed indignation at the charges of polygamy made against Germans, German serial polygamy has been not less seriously undamped than the idea of hourly which is entirely disregarded by large sections of the population. Great infant mortality, combined with an equally great decline in the birth-rate, is causing much alarm; hence the change in the attitude towards illegitimacy and the adoption of a policy of wholesale legitimization in other words, clandestine polygamy.

Reviewing the economic year 1917, the "Frankfurter Zeitung" writes uncompromisingly, declaring that, notwithstanding its predominance as long as the German Empire remains, Germany's future economic life is not wanting. It points to the enormous increase of wages to the working class, accompanied by an increase of prices, while the salaries of officials remain unchanged. Unquestionably, great suffering exists among the very large class of persons with small fixed incomes; this is

universally admitted that the system of maximum prices is bankrupt, the fair and equal distribution of provisions is intended to promote being non-existent owing to unwhimsical violations of the law. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, Germany professes to look with confidence to the coming struggle in the West. The Kaiser appears to be taking a keen personal interest in the preparations there, having apparently revived the ambition he expressed at an earlier stage of the war in England—"I mean to do what Napoleon could not do—I mean to take Dover and Calais."

SPORT.

CRICKET.

88th Co., R.G.A. v. 63rd Co., R.G.A.

The match for the Royal Artillery Cricket Cup between the above teams was played at Happy Valley, yesterday. Both sides displayed good bowling form, consequently scoring was low. The 88th Co. were all out for only 59 and their opponents were only able to make 24. There will be a re-play.

C.C.C. v. KOWLOON C.C.
This league fixture will be played to-morrow at 2 p.m. at Happy Valley. C.C.C. team:—A. W. Grimmett, J. S. Graham, F. B. Thompson, T. F. Ford, A. Arculli, G. Manley, M. H. Abbott, J. D. Norris, G. Surr, W. Pittard & Bass.

K.C.C. v. C.C.C.
This League fixture will be played to-morrow at 2 p.m. at Happy Valley. K.C.C. team:—P. Robinson (Capt.), J. Stalker, F. H. Cobb, A. A. Lorton, K. Macaskill, L. J. Blackburn, L. R. S. Hodge, C. J. Stapleton, F. E. Jossland, W. J. Elson and K. Pestonji.

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

The entries for all but one of the events in this Tournament are very satisfactory and the list will be closed on Sunday the 24th instant. In view of the very small number of entries for the Ladies Singles (competitors being confined to natives of members), it has been decided to make this an open event, and it is hoped that many ladies, though they have no connection with the Club, will enter. Competitors are requested to send their names to Mr. L. J. Blackburn, Hon. Secretary of the Kowloon Cricket Club before April 1st when the list will be closed.

AMERICANS KEPT IN CAGES IN POL.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 22, 1918, (Associated Press). American officers at the front have been taken from German camps and kept in cages for four days without food and compelled to stand all the time. At the end of the four days only small quantities of food are given. Although definite information on this point is lacking, some American soldiers have expressed the belief that the Germans probably experienced in tracking information from the American prisoners captured in Mesopotamia. Such treatment of prisoners of war could be regarded only as a sign that they were given up military information.

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TIENSIN	KUANCHOW	Mar. 23, at Noon
AMOI & SHANGHAI	SUTANG	Mar. 23, at 10 a.m.
SHANGHAI	SHANGHAI	Mar. 23, at 3 a.m.

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E. V. D. PARR,
Superintendent
Hongkong, Nov. 21, 1917. 23

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	{ Kaga Maru, 15,000 tons	SAT., 13th Apr. 11 a.m.
Nagasaki, Kobe & Yokohama	{ Aki Maru, 12,500 tons	SAT., 20th Apr. 11 a.m.
	{ Tango Maru, 12,500 tons	SAT., 18th May, 11 a.m.
Shanghai, Moji & Kobe	{ Rangoon Maru, 4,000 tons	WED., 27th Mar.

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TRUNCHEONS.
Fifty truncheons have been set aside at Headquarters Office for use by members called out on an emergency when in plain clothes.

TRUNCHEONS.
All ranks below the rank of Inspector will carry truncheons whenever in uniform.

SERVICE RIFLES.
Members of No. 1 Company are ordered to return their Service Rifles to the Armory at Central on either Monday, March 25th or Tuesday, March 26th, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 p.m. Bullets and oil-bottles need not be returned.

SEARCH SUPERVISORS.
All members of No. 1 Section, and all men warned for duty as Search Supervisors from No. 1 Platoon and No. 2 Company, etc., and members recently attached from H.K. Defence Corps, will attend in uniform at Headquarters Club on Thursday, March 28th at 5.30 p.m. sharp.
By Order,
T. F. Houson,
A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant

POST OFFICE NOTICES.

The Parcel Post Service to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Force) and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Brithra, French Somali Coast, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS.

OUTWARD.

For	Week Days	Sundays & Holidays
Fai O...	5.00 P.M.	
Tai Po...	10.00 A.M.	8.30 A.M.
Chang Chow...	7.30 A.M.	8.30 P.M.
Shanghai...	4.00 P.M.	
Amoy...	4.00 P.M.	
Swatow...	4.00 P.M.	
Shanghai...	4.00 P.M.	
Amoy...	4.00 P.M.	
Swatow...	4.00 P.M.	

FROM SHEUNGWAN WESTERN BRANCH P.O.

For	Week Days	Sundays & Holidays
Macao...	7.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M.
Canton...	7.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M.
Tai Ping...	7.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M.
Shanghai...	7.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M.
Amoy...	7.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M.
Swatow...	7.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M.

HONGKONG TIDES.
The tide-table given below has been compiled at the Victoria Harbour Office in London from the results of the analysis of observations taken by means of an automatic tide-recording machine in the Water Police Basin at Tsim Sha Tsui during the years 1915-16.
The zero of the table corresponds with the zero of the sounding in the Admiralty Chart, which has been found to be 4 feet 3 inches below mean sea-level.
To obtain the depth of water on the tide gauge at the Victoria Harbour Yard add 3 feet 3 inches, and on the gauge at the Tsim Sha Tsui Dock add 1 foot 4 inches to the height given in the table.

March 22nd to 29th, 1918.			
Time	High Water	Low Water	Height
12.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
1.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
2.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
3.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
4.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
5.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
6.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
7.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
8.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
9.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
10.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
11.00	1.5	1.5	0.0
12.00	1.5	1.5	0.0

TEMPERATURE.
Hongkong, March 22, 1918.

Time	Temperature
8.00 A.M.	20.0
1.00 P.M.	23.0
4.00 P.M.	23.0
7.00 P.M.	23.0
10.00 P.M.	23.0
1.00 A.M.	23.0
4.00 A.M.	23.0
7.00 A.M.	23.0
10.00 A.M.	23.0
1.00 P.M.	23.0
4.00 P.M.	23.0
7.00 P.M.	23.0
10.00 P.M.	23.0
1.00 A.M.	23.0
4.00 A.M.	23.0
7.00 A.M.	23.0
10.00 A.M.	23.0

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Part II—Reptiles, Amphibians and Fishes 26

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WASHING BOOK (see page 22)

Geese, —Nga... 24
Pigeons, Canton, —Fai Kap... 30
Hailow, —Hoi Hai Pak Kap... 22
Turkeys, Cock, —Fai Kap... 22
Turkeys, Hen, —Fai Kap... 22
Snipe, —Sha Tsui... 22
Pheasant, —Sha Tsui... 22
Quail, —Om Chun... 22
Partridges, —Che Ka... 22

FRUITS

Almonds, —Hang Yan... 24
Apples, (California), —Sam Shan... 24
Bananas, (India), —Sam Shan... 24
Carambolas, —Young To... 12
Cocoanuts, —Y. To... 12
Lemons, China, —Ling Meng... 12
Lemons, America, —Sam Shan... 12
Lichies, Dried, —Lai Chi Koon... 12
Oranges, (Canton), (Sweet), —Shan-sheng Tin Chang... 12
Oranges, (Canton), (Sour), —Shi Li... 12
Pears, (Canton), —Nga Tsui... 12
Peanuts, —Fai Kap... 12
Persimmons, Large, —Hung Tai... 12
Plum, —Lai Chi Koon... 12
Pumpkin, —Hung Tai... 12
Walnuts, —Hoi Hai Pak Kap... 12
Grapes, —Fai Kap... 12

Vegetables, &c.

Artichokes, —Ah Chi Cheuk... 12
Beans, Sprout, —Nga Tsui... 12
Beet Root, —Hung Tai... 12
Bitter Melon, —Fai Kap... 12
Brinjals, Green, —Ching Yau Kwa... 12
Cabbage, Chinese, (common), —Kai Tai... 12
Cauliflower, —Y. To... 12
Carrots, —Sam Shan... 12
Celery, Chinese, —Fai Kap... 12
Chilies, Dried, —Kai Tai... 12
Custard Apple, —Fai Kap... 12
Ginger, —Fai Kap... 12
Ginger, old, —Lo Kung... 12
Horse Radish, —Lai Chi Koon... 12
Indian Corn, —Shuk Mai... 12
Lettuce, —Young Shing Tsui... 12
Water Chestnuts, —Ma Tai... 12

Butcher Meat.

Beef Sirloin, —Mai Lung Pa... 24
Prime Cut... 24
Corned, —Ham Ngau Yau... 24
Roast, —Shi... 24
Braised, —Ngau Nam... 24
Steak, —Ngau Yau... 24
Steak Sirloin, —Ngau Lan... 24
Sausages, —Ngau Cheung... 24
Bullock's Brains, —Ngau No per set... 24
Tongue, fresh, —Ngau Li... 24
Tongue, corned, —Ham Ngau Li... 24
Head, —Ngau Lan... 24
Heart, —Ngau Lan... 24
Lump, —Ngau Lan... 24
Kidney, —Ngau Lan... 24
Tail, —Ngau Lan... 24
Liver, —Ngau Lan... 24
Tripe (unpressed), —Ngau Li... 24
Calves' Head and Feet, —Ngau Lan... 24
Mutton Chop, —Young Pei Kwa... 24
Leg, —Young Pei... 24
Shoulder, —Young Pei... 24
Saddle, —Young Pei... 24
Pig's Chinkings, —Chu Chong per set... 24
Brains, —Chu No... 24
Feet, —Chu Kwa... 24
Fry, —Chu Chap... 24
Head, —Chu Kwa... 24
Heart, —Chu Kwa... 24
Kidney, —Chu Kwa... 24
Liver, —Chu Kwa... 24
Pork Chop, —Chu Kwa... 24
Leg, —Chu Kwa... 24
Loin, —Chu Kwa... 24
Fat or Lard, —Chu Kwa... 24
Sheep's Head and Feet, —Young... 24
Tail, —Young... 24
Heart, —Young... 24
Kidney, —Young... 24
Liver, —Young... 24
Sucking Pig, to order, —Chu Tai... 24
Steak, Beef, —Shang Ngau Yau... 24
Mutton, —Shang Ngau Yau... 24
Veal, —Ngau Lan... 24
Sausages, —Ngau Lan... 24
Lard, —Chu Yau... 24

Fish.

Barbel, —Ka Yu... 12
Bream, —Pin Yu... 12
Canton Fresh Water Fish, —Hoi Sin Yu... 12
Carp, —Li Yu... 12
Catfish, —Chik Yu... 12
Codfish, —Man Yu... 12
Crabs, —Hoi... 12
Cuttle Fish, —Muk Yu... 12
Dab, —Sha Mang Yu... 12
Dace, —Wong Mei Lap... 12
Dog Fish, —Tsi To Sha... 12
Eel, Conger, —Hoi Ma... 12
Fresh water, —Tam Shui Yu... 12
Yellow, —Wong Sin... 12
Frog, —Tin Kai... 12
Garoupa, —Shik Pan... 12
Gudgeon, —Fai Kap Yu... 12
Herring, —Tao Pak... 12
Halibut, —Cheung Kwan Kap... 12
Laba, —Wong Fa Yu... 12
Loach, —Wo Yu... 12
Lobster, —Lang Ha... 12
Mackerel, —Chi Yu... 12
Milk Fish, —Mong Yu... 12
Mullet, —Tai Yu... 12
Oysters, —Shang Ho... 12
Parrot Fish, —Kai Kung Yu... 12
Perch, —Tau Lo... 12
Pike, —Fai Pan Fong... 12
Plaice, —Pan Yu... 12
Pomfret, Black, —Hak Cheung... 12
Pomfret, White, —Fai Cheung... 12
Prawn, —Ming Ha... 12
Ray, —Fai Pan... 12
Rock Fish, —Shik Kwan... 12
Rock, —Fai Pan... 12
Salmon, —Sha Yu... 12
Shark, —Sha Yu... 12
Skate, —Po Yu... 12
Shrimp, —Ha... 12
Snapper, —Kai Yu... 12
Sole, —Fai Pan... 12
Tench, —Wao Yu... 12
Turbot, —Tao Ha Yu... 12
Turtle, small, fresh water, —Hoi Yu... 12

EXCHANGE.
Hongkong, March 22, 1918.

On London... 3/11
On demand... 3/11
On 30 days sight... 3/11
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